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IASC News - October 2016

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News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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A girl living in the Muslim ward of Aung Mingalar in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State. Credit: OCHA

NEWS

The ERC calls for Strengthened Humanitarian Action to Support the People of Myanmar

Following a recent outbreak of violence in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State and during a period of escalated armed clashes in Kachin State, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien went to Myanmar in October to witness the situation for people affected by the complex crisis. He expressed deep concern regarding recent developments and called for all sides to find peaceful ways to resolve differences rather than choosing the path of violence. He also called on all parties to uphold their responsibilities to protect people affected by violence and conflict and to ensure humanitarian access to people in

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ERC Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in oPt, 19 October
- 91st IASC Working Group Meeting, 25-26 October 2016
- Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the response to the crisis in the Central African Republic
- Syria CALL: Evaluation Synthesis and Gap Analysis
- STAIT Webinar on Protecting Civilians
- The STAIT video series with senior humanitarian leaders
- Funding update of the Global Humanitarian Overview: October 2016

ERC Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in oPt, 19 October

In his [statement to the Security Council](#) on 19 October, Mr. O'Brien stated that nearly every resident in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is recognized as being affected by the protection crisis. Overall, nearly half of all Palestinians in the oPt - some 2.3 million out of a total population of 4.8 million – are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, he stated that “In February of this year, I stood before this Council, with a clear message: to give this issue the attention it deserves. We need collectively to reverse the core drivers of these humanitarian needs. We must move towards decisive action that will reduce humanitarian needs, secure respect for international law and bring to Palestinians and Israelis alike the hope and reality of a stable, peaceful and prosperous future.”



Small photo: Credit: IASC secretariat

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“We have to know the world as it is, but we should never forget the world as it should be.”
-Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson

On 25-26 October, the IASC held the 91st Working Group Meeting in New York, hosted by OCHA. The meeting kicked off with a keynote address by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson who shared his reflections on the past and hopes for the future. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Chair of the IASC WG. This was her last meeting as chair before she becomes the Transition Team Chief for the Secretary-General-designate, António Guterres. The meeting was comprised of eight sessions: Upholding the Norms that Safeguard Humanity; Enhancing Advocacy and Speaking Out; Translating the IASC Protection Policy into Practice; Enhancing Protection for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs; Taking the Grand Bargain Commitments Forward; A Dialogue with the Emergency Relief Coordinator; Post-World Humanitarian Summit: taking stock and moving forward; Advancing the work of IASC Task Teams and Reference Groups; and Changing the Way the IASC WG Works. Emergency themes from the discussions highlighted actions the WG did take to reinforce Human Rights and Protection. Collectively speak out on the violations and attacks on aid workers themselves, and ensure field realities inform policy development, the WG also committed to regularly reviewing how IASC work supports implementation of WHS commitments.

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of the response to the crisis in the Central African Republic

A report was released evaluating the response following the declaration of the L3 emergency in CAR December 2013, when the crisis in CAR was declared an L3 emergency. The evaluation found that, overall, the inter-agency humanitarian response made major contributions to the provision of basic services, reinforcing protection and delivering assistance to around two million people in need. It contributed enormously to relieving the crisis, saving many thousands of lives and preventing famine, disease outbreaks, mass atrocities, and larger refugee outflows.

The evaluation's findings also speak to the lack of a strategic vision for longer-term solutions to the humanitarian crisis in CAR, and state that the powerful Level 3 mechanism was not adapted to addressing the chronic crisis. It found that the performance of the clusters was only moderate to poor in relation to the objectives set forth in the SRP and HRP. While the HPC was applied in-country, respondents found its processes lengthy and time-consuming. The evaluation also concluded that in-country coordination mechanisms did not work as efficiently as envisioned, which in turn impacted the leadership of the HC and HCT. More work is needed to continue to improve the application of the five IASC Accountability to Affected People (AAP) commitments, and to ensure that they are well understood by all partners.

Based on these findings, the evaluation team made five strategic recommendations to the CAR HC/ HCT and the IASG Working Group in the areas of (1) inter-agency strategy and performance, (2) mobilizing capacity beyond an L3 declaration, (3) strategic leadership in chronic emergencies, (4) effectiveness of HPC coordination model, and (5) accountability to affected populations.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Syria CALL: Evaluation Synthesis and Gap Analysis

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Coordinated Accountability and Lessons Learning (CALL) initiative, which was launched in October 2013 by the Steering Group for Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE). To date, the Syria CALL constitutes a unique effort to present an overall picture of the evaluative work conducted by various humanitarian actors of the response to the Syria crisis.

The Evaluation Synthesis and Gap Analysis (ESGA) is based on a review of 24 publicly available evaluations and evaluative studies concerning the international response to the Syria crisis. The aim was to provide a synthesis of the main issues highlighted in those reports, with particular emphasis on areas of convergent findings. The ESGA was intended to provide a summary of lessons learned based on a broad cross-section of available material.

Common themes identified in the reviewed reports group around key areas, including: the unique context of the Syria response, coherence of the humanitarian system's response, protection of civilians and the application of humanitarian principles, accountability to affected Syrians inside the country and to Syrian refugees, the difficulty of assessing needs and regular monitor the delivery of aid and operational shortcomings such as limited staffing. The full report is available [here](#).

STAIT Webinar on Protecting Civilians

The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) held a webinar on 4 October titled, "Protecting Civilians: Mission Impossible? Humanitarian Leadership in Action." Panellists were Lise Grande, DSRSG, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq and Dennis Ardis, Protection Cluster Co-Coordinator in Iraq, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the speakers discussed practical steps they have taken to strengthen the centrality of protection, with a focus on the protection of civilians. The championing of protection by senior humanitarian leaders, and the critical need to put it at the heart of the humanitarian response, was also covered.

Other areas discussed include the actions taken by the Iraq Humanitarian Coordinator to enhance the protection of civilians, as well as steps taken by the Iraq Protection Cluster to support front line humanitarian workers deal with the inevitable protection dilemmas they will face. The webinar summary and additional information can be accessed [here](#).

The STAIT video series with senior humanitarian leaders

The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation team (STAIT) has launched a video series featuring interviews with senior leaders in the humanitarian field, to discuss challenges from field operations and best practice. You can access the STAIT's most recent interview about Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) with IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing at <http://www.deliveraidbetter.org/pages/video-series>

The STAIT has also interviewed humanitarian leaders such as Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator, Jamie McGoldrick; and Former Syria Humanitarian Coordinator, Yacoub el Hillo (2013-2016). The interviews can also be accessed at <http://www.deliveraidbetter.org/pages/video-series>

If your organisation is interested in participating in an interview, please email Tineka Smith at smith65@un.org

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October 2016

As of October 2016, consolidated appeals and refugee response plans within the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) require US\$22.1 billion to meet the needs of 96.6 million people in 40 countries. In October 2015, 82 million people were targeted to receive aid. Together the appeals are funded at \$10.2 billion leaving a shortfall of \$11.9 billion. A full funding update is posted online at: <http://bit.ly/2ewzE4F> and at: <http://reliefweb.int/node/1762171>

IASC PRIORITIES

IASC Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

The Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (www.humanitariandisabilitycharter.org) was launched in Istanbul at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. The Charter includes a commitment to develop globally-endorsed guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. In July 2016 the IASC endorsed the establishment of a Task Team, which is co-chaired by the International Disability Alliance, UNICEF and Handicap International, to develop the IASC guidelines aimed at resulting in the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and change practice across all sectors and in all phases of humanitarian action. The Task Team, held a workshop on IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action on 6 October 2016 where the work plan for development was finalised. The development of the Guidelines by the IASC Task Team is expected to take approximately two years. Discussions also tackled topics such as organization of workstreams and mobilization of resources needed for the development of the guidelines, which will be undertaken over the next few months.

IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA)

The IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse has been reflecting on how to facilitate the collaboration with diaspora organizations acting as a bridge with national organizations with a view to strengthen Accountability to Affected Population. Diaspora organisations are key humanitarian and development actors, contributing towards the rehabilitation and development of their country of origin through transfer of money, values, skills and ideas. They are an integral part of communities' resilience strategies and first response measures, with an ability to quickly mobilise assistance, channel information and advocate in times of crisis. The task team organised a meeting around this thematic and facilitated a session during the conference organised by DEMAC on the subject.

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The Task Team held a brown bag meeting on 7 November to reflect on critical and actionable recommendations to enhance the accountability and integrity of humanitarian operations at individual agency and collective levels.

IASC Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Three regional workshops on the upcoming IASC Common M&E Framework for MHPSS Programmes in Emergency Settings, were held in Brazil, Sri Lanka and Jordan. The workshop in Brazil was a joint collaboration with a national DRR workshop which included a live online webinar and interactive session through mhpss.net. The Jordan workshop was conducted in collaboration with GIZ (German Technical Development Cooperation) and covered 70 partners working across the Middle East region. The Sri Lanka workshop was organised and facilitated by mhpss.net.

The RG annual meeting took place 25 - 27 October 2016 in Uppsala, Sweden. The meeting was kindly hosted by the Church of Sweden/ ACT Alliance, an active RG member. Over 40 RG member agencies attended the meeting.

The first community-based psychosocial support working group also met in Uppsala on 24 October to discuss their plans for next year regarding building the evidence base for psychosocial support in emergencies. The IASC RG Coordinator presented on MHPSS in Emergency Settings at the WHO Mental Health GAP Forum on 10-11 October. MHPSS RG wide teleconference on Haiti Hurricane Matthew was held on 17 October, to help coordinate MHPSS surge efforts and input into MHPSS assessments.

IASC Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas

The IASC Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (RG on MHCUA) was mobilised during the month of October in preparation of the Habitat III conference, held on 17-20 October in Quito. The RG prepared key messages for the IASC Principals and Members on humanitarian challenges and proposed solutions for more efficient responses to urban crises. These messages were carried throughout the Habitat III conference by the co-chairs of the RG and its members during numerous Side Events, and reflected in the New Urban Agenda.

The Global Alliance for Urban Crises was well-represented during the HABITAT III Conference, with nearly 20 partners present and 21 events organized on urban crises. The Alliance hosted two main events: "Fostering Collaboration for Effective Urban Humanitarian Response" and "Cities in Crisis/Crisis in Cities", involving IRC, IIED, IFRC, World Vision International, UNHCR, the European External Action Service, the General Assembly of Partners HABITAT III, UCLG, UN-Habitat, WFP, and ICRC (See also twitter.com/gaurbancrises and the hashtag, #ThinkUrban). A new advocacy microsite (www.urbancrises.org/thinkurban) and a new network of built environment professionals (UK-BEAG) were launched. The Alliance also hosted an informal meetings where a discussion took place with the Co-Chairs of the IASC Reference Group on how the

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prevention, preparedness and response to urban crises.

Two important reports were released by members of the RG to inform and influence the discussion during Habitat III: ALNAP report "[Stepping Back: Understanding Cities and their Systems](#)" and IDMC briefing paper "[Leaving no one behind](#)" on urban internal displacement."

REPORTS

IFRC's World Disasters Report 2016 - Resilience: Saving lives today, investing for tomorrow

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) World Disasters Report 2016 was launched in Dakar, Senegal on 13 October. The Report entitled: *Resilience: Saving lives today, investing for tomorrow* stresses that a lack of global investment in strengthening community resilience is leaving tens of millions of people exposed to predictable, preventable and catastrophic disaster risks. According to the report, despite broad recognition that investing in resilience before a disaster can save lives and money, only 40 cents in every 100 US dollars spent on international aid is invested in preparedness and measures to reduce disaster risk. *The World Disasters Report 2016* paints a picture of a world facing complex challenges that cannot be comprehensively addressed through post-disaster response or emergency interventions.

From forecast-based financing and preparedness activities in Bangladesh to seed bank building in Senegal, the *World Disasters Report* outlines numerous examples showing how more resilient communities cope better with risks and hazards. Please go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/world-disasters-report/world-disasters-report/> for further information. Building on the report, the IFRC is also calling on partners to support and join the [One Billion Coalition for Resilience](#) – a global initiative to support communities around the world to take action to strengthen their safety, health and well-being. Launched in late 2015, the 1BC seeks to build a broad coalition of partners from across all sectors to support 1 billion people by 2025.

Regulatory Frameworks on Internal Displacement

This [paper](#) is based on a mapping exercise that the Global Protection Cluster (GPC)'s Task Team on Law and Policy conducted in 2015. The exercise led to the launch of a global database on laws and policies on internal displacement, available [here](#). Following an overview of the global framework for IDPs' protection and assistance, this study outlines lessons from national and regional processes such as the development and adoption of the *African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa*, widely known as the *Kampala Convention*, with a view to informing similar endeavours in the future.

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The aim of the [Provisional Guidance Note on Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy](#) is to assist Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and HCTs to develop a comprehensive and humanitarian system-wide protection strategy in a manner that is light and enhances the effectiveness and performance of country-level humanitarian responses. This guidance is deliberately flexible so that HCs and HCTs can design a process for strategy development that is conducive to the operational context as well as to the capacities and coordination mechanisms that are in place at country level.

State of World Population 2016

The United Nations Population Fund's flagship publication [State of World Population 2016](#), titled '10: How our shared future depends on a girl at this decisive age' shows that our collective future will be shaped by how we support the world's 60 million 10-year-old girls of today, as they move from childhood to adolescence and adulthood in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Oxford Guidance on the Law Relating to Humanitarian Relief Operations in Situations of Armed Conflict (new publication)

The [Oxford Guidance on the Law Relating to Humanitarian Relief Operations in Situations of Armed Conflict](#) was launched in October. The Oxford Guidance addresses such issues as whose consent is required for cross-border humanitarian relief operations, what amounts to arbitrary withholding of consent, and what parties must do to fulfil their obligation to allow and facilitate relief operations. This document will enhance understanding of the rules of international law that are relevant to humanitarian operations in armed conflict, promote further discussion, and inform policies and advocacy strategies for improving humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations. To explore the full Guidance document, click [here](#). You can also download a copy of the Conclusions [here](#).

FEATURED PRODUCT

The [IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings](#) are now available in [Portuguese](#). With thanks to mhps.net, UNICEF, IFRC Psychosocial Centre and IFRC Americas Regional Office for this joint collaboration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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6 December: [IASC Principals Meeting](#) (Geneva)

6 December: IASC Reference Group on Principled Humanitarian Action retreat

Other Events

Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2017, Geneva, 5 December

25th anniversary event for General Assembly resolution 46/182, New York, 12 December

Global Humanitarian Policy Forum, New York, 12-13 December

CERF High-level Pledging Conference, 13 December, New York

Pooled Funds Working Group, New York, 15 December.

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The IASC was established under General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991) as the primary inter-agency coordination mechanism for humanitarian action in complex and major emergencies. It is a unique forum which brings together UN operational agencies and other humanitarian organizations and is supported by the IASC secretariat. Email: iasccorrespondence@un.org

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